

Newsletter

Vol. 30

No. 1



15th Annual Library Appreciation Day

For the 15th year in a row legislators, other elected officials, librarians and friends of libraries celebrated the Annual Library Appreciation Day. This year's event, held on February 16 and sponsored by the West Virginia Library Association, saw about 800 people including Governor and Mrs. Moore and well over 100 legislators in attendance at a dinner at the Civic Center. Guest speaker for the evening was Marshall Loeb, Editor of **Fortune Magazine** and author of **Money Guide**.

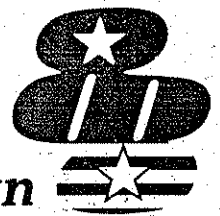
Many buses, sponsored by business, labor, **Friends** groups and other organizations, brought representatives from 55 counties to hear the Governor reiterate his long-held views on the importance of libraries and to

personally impress upon the attendees the importance of making known their libraries' needs to their legislators.

The breakdown on attendees showed 151 from Southern Area Libraries (Raleigh, Boone, Fayette, Mercer, Wyoming and McDowell); 111 from Western Counties (Cabell, Mingo, Wayne and Putnam); 6 from Mason; 68 from Kanawha County and South Charleston; 17 from Alpha Region (Clay, Doddridge, Roane); 18 from Jackson county; 37 from Morgantown (Monongalia and Preston); 14 from Wood County (Wood, Pleasants); 4 from Marion; 25 from Upshur County Service area (Upshur, Barbour, Randolph, Braxton and Tucker); 5 from Lewis County; 39 from the Moundsville Service Area (Marshall, Wetzel and

Tyler); 20 from the Clarksburg Service area (Harrison and Taylor); 11 from Potomac Valley Service area (Mineral, Pendleton, Grant, Hampshire and Hardy); 31 from the Northern Panhandle (Weirton, Hancock and Brooke); 22 from Ohio county; 5 from the Martinsburg Service area (Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan); and 62 from the Direct Service area (Greenbrier, Summers, Monroe, Pocahontas, Nicholas, Webster, Gilmer, Lincoln, Logan). Fifteen friends of colleges and universities attended along with the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, William Simmons. Fifty-seven attendees were counted among Friends of WVLC.

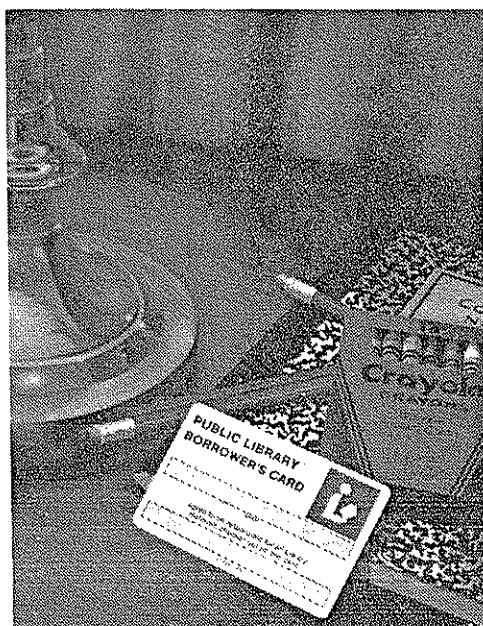
Around the Corner-Campaign



Four years ago the Library Commission prepared packets of information to use for voter "Campaign Corners" in all public libraries. Due to popular demand, the Commission is again preparing packets for all libraries which will include information about national and state candidates and instructions for securing information about local candidates.

Also included in the packet will be posters and bookmarks, press releases and addresses of national and state candidates.

Be prepared to establish a "Campaign Corner '88" in time for the primary election in May to run through the general election in November.



Library Cards for Fun and Profit

The Library Commission and the State Department of Education cooperated once again in October 1987 to conduct the statewide "Library Cards for Fun and Profit" campaign. The project was intended to put a library card in the

hand of every school child in the state. All schools and their partner public libraries achieving 100-percent public library card holders received \$50 in materials and were eligible for a grand prize of \$500 in books and other library materials. The county with the highest percentage of library card holders won \$1,000 worth of materials. A \$1,000 contribution from the American Media Corporation supported the prizes.

This entire program grew out of a national library card campaign launched October 14, 1987 in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and the American Library Association. At a gala celebration on the Mall in Washington, D.C. on October 14, Secretary of Education William J. Bennett pointed out West Virginia's leadership as he noted that while other states plan, West Virginia acts.

During the first phase of the program, 39 counties had had 70 libraries, 192 schools and 53,667 students take part in the program. Three of the participating counties, Greenbrier, Pendleton, and Webster had 100%

enrollment of their students. From these three the Webster County Board of Education was chosen in a drawing as the recipient of a \$1,000 award. A \$500 award was divided between Elkins-Randolph Public Library and the Randolph County Alternative Learning Center. Additional awards of \$100 in materials were presented to ten other library/school participants.

Since this first round was so successful, a decision was made to continue into a second phase. This time around four additional counties were added to the 100% roll: Braxton, Hardy, Jackson, and Summers. Drawings were held at Commission headquarters on December 23rd and early "Christmas presents" were awarded to the Jackson County Board of Education, and Doddridge County Public Library and the Carr School in West Union divided the library/school award.

Overall participation in the program included 45 counties, 97 libraries, 3 schools and 105,905 students.

County Participation in Library Card Program

Counties	Libraries	Schools	Students	County	Libraries	Schools	Student
Boone	4	16	5,154	Mineral	2	3	44
Braxton	3	9	3,628	Mingo	3	3	73
Brooke	1	1	1,689	Monongalia	4	4	44
Cabell	6	32	11,037	Monroe	1	2	47
Clay	1	5	1,142	Morgan	1	2	26
Doddridge	2	11	1,422	Nicholas	3	9	1,37
Fayette	4	7	2,183	Ohio	1	11	1,99
Greenbrier **	5	20	7,228	Pendleton**	1	7	1,38
Hampshire	1	4	739	Pocahontas	3	10	2,65
Hancock	1	1	144	Preston	1	1	16
Hardy **	1	5	1,813	Putnam	3	11	3,13
Harrison	2	24	6,652	Raleigh	3	24	6,32
Jackson **	1	13	5,284	Randolph	2	3	23
Kanawha	4	16	4,800	Ritchie	1	2	30
Lewis	1	4	1,141	Summers **	1	9	2,43
Lincoln	3	13	3,324	Taylor	1	3	92
Logan	2	17	4,515	Tucker	2	4	1,12
McDowell	3	10	3,139	Wayne	3	14	5,26
Mercer	1	1	413	Webster **	2	5	2,46
Marion	2	5	1,344	Wetzel	3	5	1,65
Marshall	3	4	761	Wood	1	7	1,00
Mason	3	3	590	Wyoming	3	6	2,23

** Counties with 100% student card carriers

Libraries and Literacy

Six libraries in West Virginia received a total of \$97,618 in Library Services and Construction Act Title VI grants to assist in literacy programming during the period October 1987 through September 1988. Receiving grants were: City-County Library, Moundsville, \$18,000; Clarksburg-Harrison County Library, \$5,000; Craft Memorial Library, \$19,230; Morgantown Public Library, \$14,251; Sistersville Library, \$16,137.

The Library Commission received a grant of \$25,000 that will be used to benefit twenty-one new or newly formed library literacy programs around the state.

This is the second year that West Virginia libraries have benefited from the LSCA Title VI program. In 1986, three public libraries - Raleigh County,

Mary H. Weir, and Cabell County - received a total of \$66,500. The literacy activities in six public libraries benefited directly from the new state tax checkoff for literacy programs. Library literacy programs at Boone-Madison, Craigsville, Moundsville, Beckley, Rivesville, and Huntington will receive a total of \$10,490.

Literacy programs are operating or being formed in 52 counties in the state, many of them using the local public library as a meeting site for training sessions or for tutor-student meetings. Without fuss or bother or administrative entanglement, our libraries have recognized a need in their communities and have quietly met it without asking for additional resources. Besides providing meeting space, libraries also provide copying privileges, office space, use of telephone, space for special collections and other in-kind services. Many libraries have added to their New Reader collections in the past three years to serve yet another identifiable clientele.

According to the 1980 Census in WV,

570,000 adult West Virginians over the age of 18 have less than 12 years of school - 38% of the population. Over 300,000 adult West Virginians over the age of 16 have less than 8 years of school. Over 75,000 employed West Virginians over the age of 16 have less than 8 years of school. Although these figures do not translate directly into numbers of illiterates, they do have potential for a literacy problem.

West Virginia's literacy level ranks 33rd in the U.S. West Virginia's illiteracy rate is 14%, although some estimate it as high as 20% depending on how you define illiteracy.

There are free Adult Basic Education classes in every county in the state. There are free one-to-one reading programs available in 52 counties using trained volunteers. An adult can prepare for the GED test by watching the **GED on TV** program aired on all 3 public television stations in the state and by some private cable companies. Persons who want to train to tutor or persons wanting to learn to read may get assistance by calling toll-free 1-800-642-2670 or 424-6345.

15 years for the Marshall Library Skills Institute

The fifteenth annual Marshall Library Skills Institute - a two week training program for public librarians - will be held on the Marshall University Campus again this year May 15-27, 1988. The Library Commission will absorb all costs except travel for first time attendees taking the Basic Management course. Repeat attendees will be asked to pay \$100 towards room and board. There is no cost for in-state commuter attendees for any regular course. Out-of-state students may attend by special arrangement.

Regular courses offered will include: Basic Management (required of all first

time attendees); Children's Literature; West Virginia Source Materials; and Production of Audiovisual Aids. The Basic Management course includes everything you need to know about running a small public library. Its curriculum ranges from history of libraries to accounting, programming, children, YA, adult book selection, cataloging and working with trustees and Friends. Production of Audiovisual Aids will include hands-on experience with word processing on an Apple computer. Skills acquired can be used on other types of computers as well. All courses can be taken for credit for a nominal fee by special arrangement with the West Virginia Board of

Regents.

Also being offered is a one-hour course (EDM 365 Orientation to Educational Media) which is required for students enrolled in the Marshall Associate Degree Program. The course will be taught Friday and Saturday May 20 and 21. There will be a fee for taking this course; the cost will depend on the number of students signing up for it.

A flyer and registration form will be mailed to all public libraries and previous attendees within the next two weeks. For further information contact Shirley A. Smith, Library Commission, Charleston, WV 25305 (304) 348-2041.

Micro-VTLS to Extend Statewide Automation Network

Following a lengthy test period in the 24 Direct Service libraries, grants for upgraded Micro-VTLS will be offered to 15 additional libraries throughout the State. The program, which includes 75% underwriting by the West Virginia Library Commission, includes the basic micro unit, 2 additional workstations and a modem which allows for remote maintenance as well as dial access to the union catalog, the Statewide network, and other micro locations.

The system provides a full range of services associated with VTLS: circulation, cataloging, public access, interlibrary loan, acquisitions and the other attendant activities and micro functions. Twenty libraries were represented on February 16th when the system was unveiled and demonstrated at the Commission.

Four libraries, Summers County, Rainelle, White Sulphur Springs and Chapmanville, have been awarded a grant to expand their single station operation to include an online public access terminal and the telecommunication package.

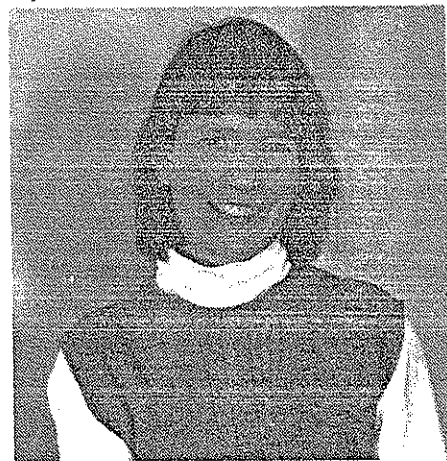
It is expected that additional grant awards will be considered should more than 15 libraries apply for the 75% funding.

Micro-VTLS extends the statewide automation and network project to those libraries whose size or location had precluded previous participation. The Statewide network will ultimately include each public library in West Virginia and already includes the following academic institutions:

Marshall, West Virginia State College, West Virginia Institute of Technology, Bluefield and Concord. The Commission has invited the remaining colleges and university to participate in this statewide project which has become the model for libraries in Scotland and Scandinavia.

Staff Change at Library Commission

One New department head has recently taken over at the Library Commission. Katy Miller is now head of the Blind and Physically Handicapped Department.



Katy Miller has been with the Library Commission since July 1987. She earned her M.L.S. from Emporia State University in 1983 and served as a branch librarian in Cooper County, Missouri before her move to West Virginia. Prior to becoming a librarian Katy enjoyed farm work in Vermont. Her other interests include backpacking, writing and music. Since she came to the department, Katy has helped oversee the installation of the Library of Congress READS (Reader Enrollment and Delivery System) program to facilitate service to their patrons. The computerized system handles circulation, statistics, equipment loan and readers advisory services. Since its installation, there has been a 65% increase in service.

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